

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 110533Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1953

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, HU, UR

SUBJ: POLITICAL BOOST FOR NEMETH

1. POLITICAL STOCK OF POLITBURO MEMBER KAROLY NEMETH GIVEN BOOST ON SEPT. 6 WITH PUBLICATION OF FRONT-PAGE PHOTO IN PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG OF BREZHNEV AND NEMETH SHAKING HANDS DURING MEETING IN MOSCOW.
 2. ALTHOUGH THIS PERHAPS NOT UNPRECEDENTED MEDIA TREATMENT OF HUNGARIAN POLITBURO MEMBER, COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF EMBASSY DOES NOT RECALL SIMILAR TREATMENT FOR OTHER THAN KADAR OVER LAST SEVERAL YEARS.
IN ANY EVENT, IT CONSTITUTES MOST OPEN ENDORSEMENT OF NEMETH SINCE HE FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN BREZHNEV VISIT TO HUNGARY IN AUTUMN 1972 AND CONTINUES SPECULATION THAT HE IS MOSCOW'S MAN.
 3. NEMETH EXPOSURE ALMOST CERTAIN TO FEED EARLIER RUMORS THAT KADAR WILL RETIRE AT MARCH PARTY CONGRESS AND NEMETH MOVED INTO SUCCESSION LINE. LOCAL POLITICAL SOURCES, HOWEVER, CONSISTENTLY OFFER "COMPLETE ASSURANCES" THAT KADAR WILL CONTINUE AS PARTY SECRETARY. AS FAR AS NEMETH
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IS CONCERNED, WE CONTINUE TO HEAR ON ALL SIDES DISPARAGING

REMARKS REGARDING HIS INTELLIGENCE, HIS UNDERSTANDING OF
SOPHISTICATED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. ADMITTEDLY,
MOST OF THESE COMMENTS STEM FROM INTELLECTUALS BUT WE
BELIEVE THERE WILL MIGHT BE RESISTANCE TO HIM AS EVENTUAL
KADAR SUCCESSOR IN OTHER PARTY CIRCLES AS WELL.
PEDERSEN

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NNN

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